**Retail outlets in Himachal Pradesh**

3179. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether commissioning of retail outlets at Nagrota Bhagwan, Raja Ka Talab, Sakoh under Kangra District has since been finalized in terms of advertisement in August, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor, outlet-wise;

(c) whether commissioning of retail outlet at Jawali in Kangra District has since been advertised;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the present status of retail outlets to be commissioned in Himachal Pradesh under special scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The selection for the retail outlet dealerships at Nagrota Bhagwan, Sakoh and Raja Ka Talab in Kangra District has not been made as the selection process by the Dealer Selection Board, Himachal Pradesh has been suspended by the Government.

(c) and (d) The retail outlet dealership at Jawali in Kangra District has not been advertised.

(e) Eight retail outlet dealerships have been allotted in the State of Himachal Pradesh under the Special Scheme for widows/next of kin of defence personnel killed in action in Operation Vijay (Kargil).

**Exploration of CBM in Gujarat**

3180. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal Bed Methane (CBM) located in Gujarat has been reserved by a notification by the State Government of Gujarat;

(b) whether Government propose to exploit these blocks for exploration and production of oil;

(c) whether the question of withdrawing the notification has been taken up with the State Government of Gujarat and if so, with what result;

(d) whether Govenrment propose to offer these blocks to the competitive bidders; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (e) The Government of Gujarat, through three notifications issued during February 1994—August, 1997, reserved certain Coal/lignite bearing areas in Gujarat for exploration and production of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Pursuant to the approval of CBM Policy by the Government of India, as required under Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959, consultations with State including Gujarat having CBM prospects, were initiated. The Government of Gujarat was requested to give its concurrence to the CBM Policy and also to withdraw these notifications. Though, the Government of Gujarat has concurred to the CBM Policy, the notifications have not been withdrawn.

Identification and offer of CBM blocks on an all India basis to the competitive bidders is an ongoing process.

**Disinvestment of BPCL and other petroleum companies**

3181. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Panna-Mukta Refinery project has been abandoned by Government;

(b) if so, the details therefor;

(c) whether any proposal is under the consideration of Government to disinvest more BPCL and other public sector petroleum company equities to private sector industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?